

Climate change is an ever-present danger to our constituents and communities. Just yesterday, a tropical storm made landfall in my district with intense winds of at least 47 miles per hour in southern New England. With communities at risk of flooding, property damage, and loss of life with increasingly harsh and dangerous storms, Congress must act.

Massachusetts is a leader in mitigating and combating climate change, but the Commonwealth cannot do it alone. I urge my colleagues to vote to pass both the Build Back Better Act and the bipartisan infrastructure bill to take the necessary steps to end climate change.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILING AT KEEPING AMERICA SAFE

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, America is less safe today than when President Biden was sworn in 7 months ago.

Last week, as the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, they released 5,000 al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists who are armed with \$85 billion of U.S. taxpayer-funded weapons as a result of the Biden administration's incompetent withdrawal. Our allies have lost respect for America, and our enemies do not fear us.

At the same time, Vice President Kamala Harris has left our southern border completely exposed and vulnerable for anyone to cross, and over 200,000 people are crossing each month. This is a national security disaster with dreadful future consequences.

But we shouldn't be surprised that Democrats are not concerned with public safety. They have been promoting defund the police and supporting soft-on-crime policies that have caused crime to skyrocket this past year.

The key role of government is to keep our families safe, and the Biden administration has failed miserably.

FIGHTING AGAINST GOP-LED VOTER DISCRIMINATION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, as I stand here today, Republicans in the Texas State Legislature are rapidly advancing some of the most restrictive voting laws that we have seen in our Republic since the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960s.

That is why it is so important that we pass H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, because H.R. 4 will help us fight against this dangerous GOP-led anti-voter discrimination that we are seeing, discrimination against the very voters who have fueled growth in our State and who are allowing Texas to pick up two new seats after reapportionment.

It will help restore full protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 and re-implement the critically needed VRA preclearance provision to focus on States with a recent history of discrimination, like the State that I live in. It is a State that has consistently pushed racially charged anti-voter legislation that will allow everything from empowering partisan poll watchers to intimidating Texas voters to imposing criminal penalties.

We have to do something about this. Let's pass H.R. 4.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HONG

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Mike Myungki Hong, a giant in the Korean-American community who exemplified the American Dream. He was a personal friend, a mentor, a visionary, and a very generous philanthropist who touched the lives of so many people.

Despite his success as an engineer and founder of Dura Coat Products, he was a very humble man who loved his wife, Lorrie, and his children very, very dearly. He spent his life giving back to his community and supporting the next generation of young leaders.

Dr. Hong dedicated his life to carrying on the legacy of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, a leader of the Korean independence movement, with honesty, humility, integrity, and passion.

The Korean-American community and I are indebted to Dr. Hong for his service and dedication. I pray that Dr. Hong's love of our country and community continues to live through us, and I pray for God's peace for his family.

PRESIDENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR AFGHANISTAN DEBACLE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the ongoing disaster in Afghanistan.

As a Vietnam-era veteran, I have seen the outcome of a poorly executed withdrawal, with tragic images of our allies hanging off of aircraft.

The scene that unfolded at Hamid Karzai Airport in Kabul last week is a betrayal to the American military, American citizens, our Afghan partners who aided American troops in the global war on terrorism, and the Afghan people.

The catastrophe that we have seen over the last few weeks was completely avoidable. We have watched as the Taliban quickly took control of the country, released terrorists from prison, and began implementing sharia law on those we left behind.

Just as important, we will have less safety of our homeland, and it will have lasting repercussions.

Madam Speaker, one of the most basic things you learn in the military is to never give your enemy the upper hand. We gave the Taliban the upper hand when we broadcast our withdrawal plans to the world but not to our allies and our coalition partners. The arbitrary and symbolic timeline the administration gave to get our troops out is during the peak of the fighting season.

The administration needs to take full responsibility for this debacle. They are making the decisions and need to be held accountable for those decisions. The President said that the buck stops with him, but he has continued to point fingers and blame others.

THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the Capitol Police and all of those who really created a miracle in the midst of a potential bomb threat just about a week ago here in the United States Capitol again, and to thank them for their astuteness and to recognize that, in spite of all of our commentary from our friends on the other side about the border, that the most serious threat here in the United States is domestic terrorism, and there evidenced an individual, whatever his condition was, wanting to bomb the Capitol.

I thank them for their honest and serious work and again credit them for their leadership.

Finally, let me say that as we move toward the Voting Rights Act, H.R. 4, it is crucial because Texas Democratic representatives will be here over the next 2 days, the same people who had a civil arrest and were stalked in their own State because they refused to go to a session that was nothing but denying rights to vote to Texans—minorities, ethnic minorities, language minorities, denying them the right to vote. H.R. 4 is crucial.

I thank them for their bravery and their service.

Let's get on with passing H.R. 4.

PRESIDENT EMBOLDENED TALIBAN

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, the Taliban is emboldened today. They have found a new reason to cry "death to America." That reason is Joe Biden.

His foreign policy is not America first; it is Taliban first.

Mr. President, listen carefully, and I will say it slowly just for you: No man left behind. That is leadership.

Here is my pledge to the Taliban: You may chant "death to America" today, but mark my words, the levers of power will be in strong hands soon. If you harm an American, we will rain